

Feral Hog Task Force Meeting

August 23, 2017

1:30 pm

Board Room

#1 Natural Resources Drive  
Little Rock, AR 72205

Arkansas Agriculture Department Secretary Wes Ward called the meeting to order. Secretary Ward welcomed all in attendance and asked the members and advisory members present to introduce themselves and state who they represent.

Members Present: Jeff Crow, Arkansas Game and Fish Commission; Patrick Fisk, Livestock and Poultry Commission; Martha Manley, Arkansas Association of Conservation District; Becky McPeeke, University of Arkansas, Division of Agriculture; Jerry Masters, Arkansas Pork Producers Association; Alex Johnston, Arkansas Economic Development Commission, Division of Rural Services; Darwin Hendrix, Arkansas Forestry Association; Jeromy Sullivent, Arkansas Dog Hunters Association; Grady Spann, Arkansas State Parks; Bruce Holland, Arkansas Natural Resources Commission; Jason Henson, Arkansas Farm Bureau; Josh Curtis, Association of Arkansas Counties, Stacy Hurst, Director, Department of Arkansas Heritage.

Advisory Members Present: Sue Weinstein, Arkansas Department of Health; Jerry Christie, Arkansas Cattlemen's Association; Clint Turnage, USDA Wildlife Services; Bo Sloan, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Others Present: Dale Nolte, APHIS National Feral Swine Program Coordinator; Chuck Yoest, Assistant Chief, Wildlife and Forestry, Tennessee Wildlife Resources; Heidi Ward, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service; Earl Smith, Arkansas Association of Conservation Districts; Marcus Creasy, Arkansas Cattlemen's Association; Richard Poche', Genesis Labs; Terry Walker, State Plant Board; Joe Fox, Arkansas Forestry Commission; Adrian Barnes, Arkansas Agriculture Department; Steven Fowler, Arkansas Game and Fish Commission; Wade Hodge, Arkansas Agriculture Department; Max Braswell, Arkansas Forestry Association; Paul Lamkin, Arkansas Dog Hunters Association; J. P. Fairhead, Arkansas Game and Fish Commission; Linda Luebke, State Plant Board. Kyle Lapham, Fire Manager, Nature Conservancy; Chris Colclasure, Arkansas Game and Fish Commission; Terry Simmons, Ag Watch Radio Network.

Secretary Ward recognized Jerry Christie and Marcus Creasy, with the Arkansas Cattlemen's Association as being in attendance. Secretary Ward stated Adam McClung, Executive Director of the Cattlemen's Association, was present at the last meeting as an advisory member of the Task Force. Secretary Ward stated that Mr. McClung passed away. Secretary Ward stated that Mr. McClung has been a tremendous partner for the Arkansas Agriculture Department, and expressed condolences to his family.

The minutes of the August 1, 2017 meeting were considered for approval. **Moved by Bruce Holland, seconded by Josh Curtis to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.**

Feral Hog Task Force Meeting Continued  
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Secretary Ward recognized Dr. Dale Nolte, National Feral Swine Program Coordinator, USDA APHIS Wildlife Services. Dr. Nolte presented an overview of their program concerning damages due to feral swine and how to provide federal leadership in addressing problems encountered with wildlife, to include feral animals. The objective of the program is to minimize damage. Where feral swine exists in some of the southern states, the intent is to work at the state agency or local level to help determine what can be done to resolve the problems or stop the damages caused by feral swine. Nolte stated they would be working with Thurman Booth, Arkansas Wildlife Services State Director.

Secretary Ward recognized Richard Poche', Genesis Labs, to present information on his involvement with Kaput. Poche' discussed feeder development and further research and testing for using Warfarin, which is Coumadin (a blood thinner), for control of feral hogs. Poche' stated they are currently working toward meeting the criteria for approval of the product in Arkansas.

Mr. Chuck Yoest, Assistant Chief of Wildlife and Forestry, Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency. Yoest gave a presentation on the Wild Hog Eradication Action Team (W.H.E.A.T.). Yoest stated he has been involved as the past wild hog program leader in Tennessee and as a result has been very involved in their partnership. He shared Tennessee's experience with wild hogs and the history, along with recommendations for Arkansas' partnership.

In the interest of time, Secretary Ward did not present an agenda item for discussion regarding the donation of feral swine meat.

Secretary Ward asked Chris Colclasure to present the three potential Task Force Committees. Colclasure stated it would be helpful to break up into committees of people who actually work in these particular fields to come up with suggestions for the Task Force to consider.

The Committees are as follows, along with those volunteering to Chair each Committee.

Management/Control Committee - Chris Colclasure, Chair

Education Committee – Becky McPeeke, Chair

Policy/Legislation Committee – Patrick Fisk, Chair

Secretary Ward suggested that individual members and advisory members decide which Committee they would like to participate in and work with the Chairs of that Committee to set their individual meetings with the ultimate goal of coming back together with the full Task Force and submit a report and/or recommendations as a Committee.

The next Task Force meeting was set for October 25, 2017 @ 1:30 pm.

Meeting adjourned.

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Wes Ward, Chairman  
Secretary, Arkansas Agriculture Department